

Remarks

The Office Action mailed May 27, 2003 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-44 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 23, 26, 28, 31, 32, 33, and 42 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-44 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 32-34, 36-38, and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by May (U.S. Patent 6,313,727) is respectfully traversed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated May 27, 2003 for the above-identified patent application from August 27, 2003 through and including September 27, 2003. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$110.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully submit that May does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between May and the present invention is that May neither describes nor suggests automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes. Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system used to determine if two parties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument. Moreover, May describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies.

May describes a credit monitoring system that forms a complex check to determine if two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade based upon their respective

predefined credit preferences (column 5, lines 49-53). Credit preferences imputed by each counterparty with regard to the other counterparty are referenced to determine the trade eligibility of either party with respect to the other for a particular financial transaction instrument (column 5, lines 53-58). Indication of whether a counterparty can enter into the proposed trade is conveyed to the respective trader, preferably using a color coding scheme in which various colors represent the relevant credit status with regard to the viewing trader (column 5, lines 58-62). The complex check performed by the system may be embodied in a simple yes/no statement, in terms of maturity of a particular financial instrument, or in terms of a risk quotient (i.e., risk equivalent or RQ) initially determined by the system, though modifiable by the trader (column 5, lines 62-67). Accordingly, financial institutions which trade complex financial instruments such as derivatives which create obligations which extend into the future may monitor their credit risk by the bilateral credit screening of the system (column 5, line 67-column 6, line 4). A credit group is a grouping of classes, such as a foreign exchange swap, of financial contracts that a business unit wishes to be treated in a like manner for credit purposes (column 23, lines 49-52, column 18, lines 12-27).

Claim 1 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing, using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, the method including the steps of “tracking credit ratings of a bank...requesting the bank to establish a line of credit...accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit...automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank...and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes”.

May does not describe or suggest the method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing that includes automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the

bank, and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument. As indicated by the Office Action on page 6, May does not specifically teach transmitting borrowing journal entries to a general ledger. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over May.

Applicants further traverse the suggestion indicated on pages 2-3 of the Office Action that May teaches a method that includes the steps of automatically transmitting domestic and international wired information for cash movement to the bank. Applicants respectfully submit that May does not describe or suggest automatically transmitting domestic and international wired information for cash movement to the bank. Rather, May describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that Claim 1 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over May.

Claims 2-3 and 5-7 depend from independent Claim 1 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2-3 and 5-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-3 and 5-7 are also patentable over May.

Claim 15 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against three credit lines using a Credit Line System, the system including “a server system, a client system configured with a browser, a centralized database coupled to said server system, said server system connected to said client system and configured to: track credit ratings of a bank...access a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established

with the bank...transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank...and post journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.”

May does not describe or suggest the system as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a server system configured to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and post journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over May.

Claims 16-17 and 19-21 depend from independent Claim 15 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 16-17 and 19-21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16-17 and 19-21 are also patentable over May.

Claim 32 recites a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing using a Credit Line System, including “a code segment that tracks credit ratings of a bank...a code segment that accesses a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank...a code segment that transmits domestic and international

wire information for cash movement to the bank...a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.”

May does not describe or suggest the computer program as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a computer program that includes a code segment that transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over May.

Claims 33-34, 36-38, and 43-44 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 32 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 33-34, 36-38, and 43-44 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 33-34, 36-38, and 43-44 are also patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15-17, 19-21, 32-34, 36-38, and 43-44 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 9-11, 23-25, 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Northington et al. (U.S. Patent 6,128,602) (“Northington”) is respectfully traversed.

Northington describes an open-architecture system for automatically consolidating information from a plurality of financial systems into a single system without the need for backroom procedures (column 2, lines 29-32). The system includes a general ledger system (131) that may maintain the overall financial records of an entity (column 6, lines 28-29). The system also includes an application services element (103) that preferably includes a data processor (402) for processing incoming transaction data and a report generator (401) for generating and delivering reports of stored transaction data in response to a command received from a user and/or at predetermined intervals (column 7, lines 45-51).

Claim 9 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing, using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, the method including the steps of “automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank...processing information utilizing a credit line module, a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank, and a journal entry module...monitoring a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...creating journal entries including borrowings against the line of credit...and posting the journal entries to record transactions on a general ledger of an entity that establishes the line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.”

Northington does not describe or suggest the method as recited in Claim 9. More specifically, Northington does not describe or suggest a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing that includes automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank, monitoring a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, creating journal entries including borrowings against the line of credit, and posting the journal entries to record transactions on a general ledger of an entity that establishes the line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Northington describes a general ledger system that may maintain the overall financial records of an entity. Applicants respectfully traverse the suggestion indicted on pages 4-5 of the Office Action that Northington teaches a method including the steps of creating journal entries and posting the journal entries to record the transactions on a general ledger for facilitating the preparations of financial statements. Although Northington may show a method that includes creating journal entries and posting the journal entries to record the transactions on a general ledger for facilitating the preparations of financial statements, Applicants respectfully submit that Northington does not describe or suggest monitoring a line of credit established with a bank based on credit ratings of the bank, creating journal entries including borrowings against the line of credit, and posting the journal entries to record transactions on a general ledger of an entity that establishes the line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements. Accordingly, Applicants further submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Northington.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Northington.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from independent Claim 9 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 10 and 11 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 10 and 11 are also patentable over Northington.

Claim 23 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing using a Credit Line System, the system including “a server system, a client system configured with a browser, a centralized database coupled to said server system, said server system connected to said client system and configured to: transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank...monitor a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...and process information contained in the centralized database utilizing modules comprised of: a credit line module to maintain credit lines...a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank...and a journal entry module, said journal entry module integrated

with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, and post the journal entries to record transactions on the general ledger of the entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.”

Northington does not describe or suggest the system as recited in Claim 23. More specifically, Northington does not describe or suggest a server system configured to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank, monitor a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, and a journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, and post the journal entries to record transactions on the general ledger of the entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Northington describes a general ledger system that may maintain the overall financial records of an entity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 is patentable over Northington.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 is patentable over Northington.

Claims 24-25 and 29-30 depend from independent Claim 23 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 24-25 and 29-30 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 24-25 and 29-30 are also patentable over Northington.

Claim 31 recites a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing using a Credit Line System, the Credit Line System which includes a server system, a client system configured with a browser, a centralized database coupled to the server system, the server system connected to the client system, the computer program including “a code segment to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank...a code segment to

process information contained in the centralized database utilizing a credit line module to maintain credit lines...a code segment to maintain borrowings against a credit line with the bank utilizing a borrowing module...a code segment to monitor the credit line based on credit ratings of the bank...and a code segment to process journal entries including borrowings against the credit line by utilizing a journal entry module, the journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create borrowing journal entries and post the borrowing journal entries to record transactions on the general ledger of an entity that has the credit line with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.”

Northington does not describe or suggest the system as recited in Claim 31. More specifically, Northington does not describe or suggest a computer program including a code segment to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank, a code segment to monitor the credit line based on credit ratings of the bank, and a code segment to process journal entries including borrowings against the credit line by utilizing a journal entry module, the journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create borrowing journal entries and post the borrowing journal entries to record transactions on the general ledger of an entity that has the credit line with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements..

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Northington describes a general ledger system that may maintain the overall financial records of an entity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 31 is patentable over Northington.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 31 is patentable over Northington.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 9-11, 23-25, and 29-31 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over May in view of Hilt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,465,206) (“Hilt”) is respectfully traversed.

May is described above. Hilt describes a bill pay system in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols (column 10, lines 37-42). The protocols include data exchange and messaging protocols as well as operating regulations which bind and direct the activities of the participants (column 10, lines 42-44). The participating consumers receive bills from participating billers which indicate an amount, and a unique biller reference number ("BRN") identifying the biller to the payment network (column 10, lines 44-49). To authorize a remittance, the consumer transmits to its bank a transaction indicating (1) an amount to pay, (2) the source of the funds, (3) a date on which to make the payment, (4) consumer C's account number with biller B, and (5) biller B's BRN (column 10, lines 49-54). When Bank C receives the bill payment order from consumer C, Bank C then submits an electronic transaction, a payment message, into a payment network directed to Bank B (biller's bank), which is determined from the BRN of the transaction (column 10, lines 63-67). For settlement, bank C debits the account designated by consumer C as the source of funds for that payment and is obligated to a net position with the payment network; likewise, bank B receives a net position from the payment network and credits biller B's bank account (column 11, lines 10-14). Bank B's net position is equal and opposite to Bank C's net position except for a small processing fee, which is collected by the payment network from the transfer to finance the costs of operating the payment network (column 11, lines 14-18).

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1. Claim 1 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing, using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, the method including the steps of "tracking credit ratings of a bank...requesting the bank to establish a line of credit...accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit...automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank...and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes".

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing that includes automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies; and Hilt describes a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. Notably, neither May nor Hilt, alone or in combination, describe or suggest automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Claim 1 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

Claim 18 depends from Claim 15. Claim 15 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against three credit lines using a Credit Line System, the system including

“a server system, a client system configured with a browser, a centralized database coupled to said server system, said server system connected to said client system and configured to: track credit ratings of a bank...access a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank...transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank...and post journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.”

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the system as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a server system configured to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and post journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies; and Hilt describes a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Claim 15 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

When the recitations of Claim 18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 18 likewise is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

Claim 35 depends from independent Claim 32. Claim 32 recites a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing using a Credit Line System, including “a code segment that tracks credit ratings of a bank...a code segment that accesses a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank...a code segment that transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.”

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the computer program as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a computer program including a code segment that transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies; and Hilt describes a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Claim 32 is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

When the recitations of Claim 35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 35 likewise is patentable over May in view of Hilt.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 is not a proper rejection. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify May using the teachings of Hilt. More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. Specifically, one cannot use hindsight reconstruction to pick and choose among isolated disclosures in the prior art to deprecate the claimed invention. Further, it is impermissible to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Neither May nor Hilt, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the combination claimed in Claims 4, 18, and 35. Rather, the present Section 103 rejections appear to be based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Specifically, May teaches a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and teaches a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies, and Hilt teaches a method in which participating consumers pay bills to participating billers using a bill payment network where billers are universally identified and for which all participants agree to a set of protocols. However, there is no motivation or suggestion to combine May with Hilt. Since there is no teaching nor suggestion for the combinations, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of

course, such combinations are impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 18, and 35 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8, 22, and 39-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over May is respectfully traversed.

May is described above.

Claim 8 depends from independent Claim 1. Claim 1 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing, using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, the method including the steps of “tracking credit ratings of a bank...requesting the bank to establish a line of credit...accessing a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding the established line of credit...automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank...and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes”.

May does not describe or suggest the method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing that includes automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitoring the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and posting journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and

describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claim 1 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that Claim 1 is patentable over May.

When the recitations of Claim 8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 8 likewise is patentable over May.

Claim 22 depends from independent Claim 15. Claim 15 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing against three credit lines using a Credit Line System, the system including “a server system, a client system configured with a browser, a centralized database coupled to said server system, said server system connected to said client system and configured to: track credit ratings of a bank...access a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank...transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank...and post journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.”

May does not describe or suggest the system as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a server system configured to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, monitor the established line of credit based on the credit ratings of the bank, and post journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claim 15 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Claim 15 is patentable over May.

Claims 22 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 22 likewise is patentable over May.

Claims 39-42 depend from independent Claim 32. Claim 32 recites a computer program for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing using a Credit Line System, including “a code segment that tracks credit ratings of a bank...a code segment that accesses a centralized database to obtain and maintain information regarding a line of credit established with the bank...a code segment that transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank...a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.”

May does not describe or suggest the computer program as recited in Claim 32. More specifically, May does not describe or suggest a computer program including a code segment that transmits domestic and international wire information for cash movement to the bank, a code segment that monitors the established line of credit with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, and a code segment that posts borrowing journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit to a general ledger of an entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for financial monitoring, reporting and auditing purposes.

Rather, May describes a credit monitoring system that determines whether two particular counterparties will accept each other for a particular trade of a financial instrument, and describes a foreign exchange swap, which is an exchange of different types of currencies. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that Claim 32 is patentable over May.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Claim 32 is patentable over May.

When the recitations of Claims 39-42 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 32, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 39-42 likewise are patentable over May.

In addition to the arguments set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 8, 22, and 39-42 is not a proper rejection. As is well established, the mere assertion that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified May to obtain the claimed recitations of the present invention does not support a prima facie obvious rejection. Rather, each allegation of what would have been an obvious matter of design choice must always be supported by citation to some reference work recognized as standard in the pertinent art and the Applicants given the opportunity to challenge the correctness of the assertion or the notoriety or repute of the cited reference. “Deficiencies of the cited references cannot be remedied by...general conclusions about what is ‘basic knowledge’ or ‘common sense.’” (see In re Lee, 61 USPQ2D 1434, 1435). Applicants have not been provided with the citation to any reference supporting the combination made in the rejection. The rejection, therefore, fails to provide the Applicants with a fair opportunity to respond to the rejection, and fails to provide the Applicants with the opportunity to challenge the correctness of the rejection. Of course, such combinations are impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 8, 22, and 39-42 be withdrawn.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 8, 22, and 39-42 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 12-14 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Northington is respectfully traversed.

Northington is described above.

Claims 12-14 depend indirectly from independent Claim 9. Claim 9 recites a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing, using a Credit Line System coupled to a centralized database, the method including the steps of “automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank...processing information utilizing a credit line module, a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank, and a journal entry module...monitoring a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...creating journal entries including borrowings against the line of credit...and posting the journal entries to record transactions on a general ledger of an entity that establishes the line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.”

Northington does not describe or suggest the method as recited in Claim 9. More specifically, Northington does not describe or suggest a method for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing that includes automatically transmitting domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank, monitoring a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, creating journal entries including borrowings against the line of credit, and posting the journal entries to record transactions on a general ledger of an entity that establishes the line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Northington describes a general ledger system that may maintain the overall financial records of an entity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Northington.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over Northington.

Claims 12-14 depend indirectly from independent Claim 9 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 12-14 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 9, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 12-14 are also patentable over Northington.

Claims 26-28 depend from independent Claim 23. Claim 23 recites a system for tracking bank credit lines and borrowing using a Credit Line System, the system including “a server system, a client system configured with a browser, a centralized database coupled to said server system, said server system connected to said client system and configured to: transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank...monitor a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank...and process information contained in the centralized database utilizing modules comprised of: a credit line module to maintain credit lines...a borrowing module to maintain borrowings from the bank...and a journal entry module, said journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, and post the journal entries to record transactions on the general ledger of the entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.”

Northington does not describe or suggest the system as recited in Claim 23. More specifically, Northington does not describe or suggest a server system configured to transmit domestic and international wire information for cash movement to a bank, monitor a line of credit established with the bank based on credit ratings of the bank, and a journal entry module integrated with the credit line module and the borrowing module to process information to create journal entries including borrowings against the established line of credit, and post the journal entries to record transactions on the general ledger of the entity that has the established line of credit with the bank for facilitating preparations of financial statements.

Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Northington describes a general ledger system that may maintain the overall financial records of an entity. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 is patentable over Northington.

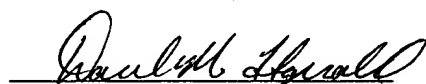
For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 is patentable over Northington.

When the recitations of Claims 26-28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 26-28 are also patentable over Northington.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 12-14 and 26-28 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the Claims now active in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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